Upgradation of Amritsar Airport

*96. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the outlay and sanctioned financial plan for the upgradation of Amritsar Airport into international airport;

(b) whether tenders have been floated for the above project and what is the completion time-schedule; and

(c) the reasons, if any, for the inordinate delay in commencing construction work following sanction of this project in 1997?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) A project for upgradation of Amritsar Airport at an estimated cost of Rs, 79.27 crores with budgetary support by the Central Government in debt equity ratio of 1 : 1 has been approved by the Government on 7.11.2000.

(b) Yes Sir. The project is likely to be completed by November, 2003.

(c) The reasons for delay in formal Government approval and commencement of construction work are as follows:

(i) delay in handing over land for conducting soil test, design and etailed estimation of upgradation work;

(ii) Public Investment Board (PIB) directed to conduct fresh detailed survey regarding the potential for growth of passenger and cargo traffic from Punjab and adjoining area, which was conducted afresh by Airports Authority of India;

(iii) PIB also directed to explore private participation in the project.

Dumping of Chinese goods

*97. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the Chinese delegation led by Mr. Li Peng, the Second-in-Command in Peking hierarchy, the question of large scale dumping of Chinese goods,

including that by way of smuggling carae up for consideration and discussion;

(b) if so, what was the precise Indian case presented to them and what was their response thereto; and

(c) what understanding, if any, was reached to prevent or check the dumping of Chinese goods?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. The issue of dumping of Chinese goods and smuggling was not raised by Mr. Li Peng or discussed with him during his recent visit to India.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of import of foreign made paper on operations of the Security

Paper Mill, Hoshangabad

† *98. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the paper to be produced at Security Mill, Hoshangabad is being imported; if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the operation of Security Paper Mill, at Hoshangabad is getting affected due to import of foreign made paper and whether the indigenous technology also is getting affected as the paper produced by the mill is not used; and

(c) whether several plants of the above mill have become obsolete and many of them are non-operational if so, what action is proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The present contracts for import of currency paper by Currency Note Press, Nashik/Bank Note Press, Dewas are for 13,630 MT., and those for import by Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Ltd. are for 18,150 MT.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.